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Federal Court dismisses pulp mill appeal

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Save Share A A A

The environmental group had claimed the process put in place by Mr Turnbull after Gunns withdrew the project from the scrutiny of the independent Resource Planning and Development Commission on March 14 was biased, flawed, improper and unfair.

However, a judgment handed down by Justice Marshall found in favour of Mr Turnbull.

At the time of Justice Marshall's judgment, Mr Turnbull had not given approval for the construction and operation of the pulp mill.

Mr Turnbull gave the final clearance to Gunns in October.

"The legality of that decision was therefore not directly challenged on this appeal," Justice Finn said.

Mr Ogle has now called on Mr Turnbull and Labor's environment spokesman Peter Garrett to commit to reforming the federal environment laws to get proper environmental protections.

Thursday's Federal Court decision coincided with the annual general meeting of Gunns at the company's Launceston headquarters where about 40 protesters gathered waving placards and chanting.

They called for a halt to the mill, as shareholders drove into the Gunns complex past a small group of company and police security.

The timber industry has welcomed the ruling, with Timber Communities Australia Tasmania manager Barry Chipman urging all Tasmanians to give the pulp mill a fair go.

Comment was being sought from Mr Turnbull, but a spokesman for Mr Garrett declined to comment.

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